GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5140
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
DEATHS CAUSED DUE TO SMOKING
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deaths caused due to smoking during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of various types of anti-smoking campaign targeting different age-groups carried out alongwith the cost incurred thereon;

(c) whether any Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations of the GoM?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) As per report of Tobacco Control in India,2004 approx. 8-9 Lakh persons die annually due to tobacco attributable diseases. The year wise data is not maintained.

(b) 'The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce,Production,Supply and Distribution) Act,2003' enacted in the year 2003 is intended to discourage the consumption of tobacco, the salient features of which are as under:-

(i) prohibition of smoking in a public place;

(ii) prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement;

(iii) prohibition of sale of tobacco products to minors;

(iv) prohibition of sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions;

(v) mandatory depiction of specified pictorial health warnings on all tobacco product packs.

Government of India has also launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 18 districts of 9 states during the year 2007-08.The proposed National Programme broadly includes:

1. Capacity building of the State in the effective implement of the Tobacco Control Act,2003. It is proposed to set up State Tobacco Control Cells and District Level Monitoring Cells.

2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of tobacco;

3. Engage NGOs, to carry out school programme in the government schools;

4. Mass Media/ IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs;

5. Capacity building laboratories for tobacco product testing.

An amount of Rs.1.55 crore has been released to the states/districts for carrying forward the programme and an amount of Rs.14.50 crores has been spent under IEC activities to disseminate ill effect of the tobacco products during the financial year 2007-08.

(c) & (d) The Government constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to consider the issue of Packaging and Labeling Rules for bidi bundles with specified health warnings.As per recommendations of GoM, the packaging and labeling rules 2008 have been notified vide GSR No.182 dated 16th March,2008.These rules shall come into force from the date to be notified separately.